

NHL

Form 10-500  
(July 1959)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Sumter	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME
COMMON: * Milford Plantation
AND OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Pinewood 29125			
STATE: South Carolina	29125	CODE 45	COUNTY: Sumter
			CODE 085

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Reeve Clark			
STREET AND NUMBER: Milford Plantation			
CITY OR TOWN: Pinewood	29125	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURT-HOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Sumter County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Sumter	29150	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: S.C. Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: S.C. Department of Archives and History			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	29211	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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# 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) Essentially			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architects agree that Milford, built in 1839, is purest Greek Revival. The facade has six magnificent carved columns on granite bases which support a classic portico with a parapet adorned with a Greek motif. The capitals are copies from the Choragic monument in Athens, erected to honor Lysicrates for his victory in a musical contest, and this same Greek motif is carried out in wood, marble, plaster, bronze and glass in all the decorations of the house, both in the exterior and interior. In the exterior wall on each side a niche contains a small classical statue. Although set in solitary splendor in the High Hills of the Santee surrounded by woods, with a wide lawn sloping toward Tavern Creek other Plantations were actually nearby, including Hawthorne Hill and Cedarhurst, both belonging to the Richardson family.

The walls of Milford, two feet thick, are of handmade brick burned on the place, but the granite came by boat from Rhode Island, and much of the marble as well as the carving and ornamentation came from abroad.

The entrance is unique, having Greek ornamentation over the entablature which is supported by a classic column and pilaster on either side of the doors.

At the rear through curved mahogany doors one enters the rotunda, separated from the main hall by massive double doors and side lights. It rises to the roof culminating in an art-glass eye, framed by elaborate carving. There, in a setting built for it, is the imposing, unsupported, flying, circular stair.

The interior plan is typical of most Southern Colonial homes having a spacious center hall extending the entire depth of the house, flanked by front and rear parlors on one side and a library and dining room on the other. The end of the dining room is curved where the china and silver closets are located on either side of the door to the library, each with a curved mahogany door and curved interior shelving. On the first two floors ceiling heights are fifteen feet and nine feet on the third floor.

In the parlors entire walls are covered by gold framed mirrors and between the two are movable, mirror-lined walls which, when folded back, make a ball-room, the only separation then being four supporting columns topped by the usual Greek capitals. Here on the mantles you can see the motif in marble. On the east side of the house the mantles are all white marble and on the west, black. The solid but panelled blinds occur throughout the house except on the third floor where the windows resemble portholes with a carved wreath on the outside.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## J. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 19th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SELECTED DATES (If Applicable and Known) 1859 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☒ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☒ Historic☐ Industry☐ Philosophy☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ itarian☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Symbolic of the rural community life which flourished before the Civil War, Milford represents the highest development of all forms of plantation activity, social, political and, with St. Mark's Episcopal Church only a mile away, religious also. Having had the unusual good fortune to escape being burned by Sherman's troops, it remains a museum piece of the traditional antebellum south.

The Mannings, who were the original builders, contributed many Governors to the State of South Carolina and were leaders in politics and society in that area.

Architecturally it is unique in the South and when the Governor built it earned the title of "Manning's Folly" since its location was so remote and the details so elaborate.

The State of South Carolina is fortunate that such a perfect example of historic and architectural value has been preserved to the present day.

Milford was the outstanding plantation home in the area when short-staple cotton reached its apogee in South Carolina. The home and the acreage exemplify this era when cotton was king better than any other in the state. According to Columbia Architect G. Thomas Harmon, Milford is the loveliest house in South Carolina. Walter Petty, FAIA, values it as probably the outstanding Greek Revival plantation home in the South.

The Manning family owned Milford until 1903, when it was purchased by Mary Clark Thompson. Inheriting the estate from her was her nephew, Emory W. Clark. His heir was his son, W. E. Reeve Clark, the present owner.

Milford is the main house on a plantation tract of 4,251 acres. From the total acreage, the 712 acres surrounding the house are included in this nomination as an example of a plantation and timberland area (such large land holdings in a family ownership are increasingly rare in South Carolina) and also as a buffer to protect Milford against all possible encroachments. The 712 acres selected effectively protect the house area and also represent the nucleus of the plantation. Please see timber map enclosed as supplementary information to indicate the scope of the entire plantation.

# 9. LITERATURE AND OTHER REFERENCES

## Bibliography

Canby, Olive P. "Millford in the High Hills of Santee, South Carolina." The Georgian Period. Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1902.

Harmon, G. Thomas. "Millford Mansion." Southern Architect and Building News. October 31, 1970.

Leiding, Harriette Kershaw. Historic Homes of South Carolina. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1921.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0			0			
NE	0			0			
SE	0			0			
SW	0			0			

## APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Mrs. James W. Fant, Historic Resources Division	
ORGANIZATION:		S.C. Department of Archives and History	
STREET AND NUMBER:		1430 Senate Street	
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Columbia 29211		South Carolina	45

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Title Director, S.C. Department of Archives & History

Date June 14, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Sumter	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description: Milford Plantation

Modern features for the period were central heating, running water and two passageways at the rear connecting with kitchen on one side and the laundry on the other with servants' rooms over each.

Of the remaining dependencies the water tower and Spring House are on a scale with the mansion, the latter a replica of part of Trinity Church in Columbia. The stable still standing is tremendous, containing 26 standing stalls, carriage room, and tack room behind its elaborate columns.

Few changes have been made in the original design and these consist of a powder room in the rotunda under the stairs, a pantry between the dining room and the passageway to the kitchen, and an additional bath room on the second floor.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 71000808

Date Listed: 11/19/71

Millford Plantation  
Property Name

Sumter  
County

SC  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

11-20-96  
Date of Action

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### Amended Items in Nomination:

#### Section 1: Name

According to archival evidence (a letter dated March 17, 1865 from Governor John L. Manning, historic owner of the property), the correct spelling of the name of the property is Millford Plantation (two Ls instead of one as in the original nomination).

The name is revised to read Millford Plantation.

This information was confirmed by a copy of the attached letter. Dan Elswick at the South Carolina SHPO concurred with the change on November 18, 1996.

### DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

Millford 17<sup>th</sup> March 1865

A thousand thanks My dear Colonel  
for your friendly interest in the horses, which  
you assisted to rescue from the enemy when  
my brother was captured with all of our  
working stock. With the exception of ~~these~~  
~~and~~ a few blind horses, some brood mares,  
& Gen Beaupard's Stallion we have nothing  
to depend upon for making bread, but then  
I now send for, and a few mules, loaned us  
for their food by refugees.

I send up Oscar & Billy to fetch  
back the bay horse, & the black mare,  
with the carriage and baggage wagon,  
if by good luck they may still have been  
left in your possession.

Should there be any charge against  
them by persons who you may have employed  
to assist you in saving them, be pleased to  
make a statement of it and enclose it by the  
deposits, and for your own kindness in the  
matter receive my grateful acknowledgments.

With kind regards to Mrs Macfarlane  
I am, believe me very truly yours  
John L. Hannum

To Col. Allen all respects.